

Making Cheshire Safer

In July 2020, Cheshire Fire Authority approved its [Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024 \(IRMP\)](#). This is a multi-year plan that sets out how the Authority will provide fire and rescue services across Cheshire to address the risks we face and meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Despite the significant disruption brought about by the Covid pandemic the Authority has completed many objectives within the IRMP, which has helped to improve the services provided for the community. This has included the re-introduction of a second fire engine at Chester and the construction of an innovative carbon neutral fire station in the city; the development of new capabilities such as specialist wildfire equipment; a fleet of Rapid Response Rescue Units; a High Reach Fire Engine and a dedicated water carrier.

Alongside this, the Authority has funded the development of a state of the art operational training centre in Winsford and an extensive programme to modernise its fire stations and other properties.

The year ahead will see the Authority work to complete the remaining objectives within the IRMP. This includes the construction of a new, flagship fire station in Crewe and implementing a new shift



pattern for firefighters at Wilmslow Fire Station that will improve the effectiveness of the service by providing the area with guaranteed fire cover overnight, without the need to bring in supporting resources from elsewhere in the county. Additionally, a review of the Authority's fire prevention function will be undertaken to ensure its remain fit for purpose and meets new and emerging risks.

The coming year will also see the Authority commence a programme of activity to develop its

new 2024-2028 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). The CRMP will outline how the Authority will address current and emerging fire and rescue related risks over the coming years to help keep the communities of Cheshire safe from fire and other emergencies. Please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk over the course of the year to find out more information on the development of our CRMP and how you can get involved to shape the future of your fire and rescue service.





Facts and figures

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service operates:

- 28 Fire Stations
- 3 Community Safety Centres
- 3 Community Fire Protection Offices
- Shared headquarters with Cheshire Constabulary
- An Operational Training facility
- Safety Central, our public safety education centre

The Authority provides a 24 hour service to just over 1 million people and employs some:

- 665 firefighters and fire officers
- 196 community safety and professional services staff



Fire budget 2023–24

The Fire Authority has agreed a budget of £51.74 million to provide a fire and rescue service to the communities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington areas for 2023–24.

A total of £34.40 million will need to be raised from local Council Tax, which is equivalent to £87.48 for each Band D dwelling. This is a rise of 6.06% or 10p a week for a Band D home.

The budget equates to a cost per resident of just 90p per week.

Estimated expenditure and income

	2023–24 £m	2022–23 £m
Employee related expenditure	37.5	34.07
Non-pay expenditure	17.94	16.13
Income	(3.70)	(3.61)
Budget requirement	51.74	46.59

How the budget requirement is built up

The Fire Authority budget requirement for 2023–24 is £51.74 million. The reasons for the increase in the overall budget requirement are as follows:

	£m	% increase (decrease)
Base budget	46.59	
Pay and price inflation	2.93	6.3%
Essential growth	2.05	4.4%
Efficiencies and Savings	(0.94)	-2.0%
One-off items not funded from reserves	0.71	1.5%
Budget requirement	51.74	11.1%

Where the money will come from

	£m	£ Per Resident	£ Band D Equivalent
This year's budget	51.74	47.12	131.60
Less Government funding assessment and collection fund adjustment	(17.34)	(15.79)	(44.12)
Local Council Tax	34.40	31.33	87.48

Cheshire Fire Authority

The Fire Authority manages the fire and rescue service on behalf of the local community. It comprises 23 councillors – nine from Cheshire East Council, seven from Cheshire West and Chester Council, three from Halton Borough Council and four from Warrington Borough Council.

Please note that membership of the Authority may change after the conclusion of local elections in Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Halton on 4 May 2023.

Representing Halton

Cllr Phil Harris
Cllr Stef Nelson
Cllr Rob Polhill



Meeting dates

Wed 28 June 2023
Wed 27 September 2023
Wed 6 December 2023
Wed 14 February 2023
Wed 24 April 2024

All meetings are open to the public, start at 10.30am and are held at the Sadler Road site in Winsford. Meetings are also recorded and these are available to view, along with meeting agendas and minutes, on the Service's website:
www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



Cheshire
Fire Authority

Queries about this leaflet should be sent to: Treasurer, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Clemonds Hey, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2UA.

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